

2PI Effective Action and Evolution Equations of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills

Jelena Smolic¹ and Milena Smolic¹

¹*Institute for Theoretical Physics*

University of Amsterdam,

Science Park 904, Postbus 94485, 1090 GL Amsterdam, The Netherlands

J.Smolic@uva.nl, M.Smolic@uva.nl

ABSTRACT

We employ n PI effective action techniques to study $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills, and write down the 2PI effective action of the theory. We also supply the evolution equations of two-point correlators within the theory.

1 Introduction

Our current understanding of phenomena in thermal equilibrium is extensive, but many of the processes which give deeper insights into our fundamental understanding of nature begin far away from equilibrium. There is abundant experimental data concerning the early stages of heavy-ion collisions, which requires the development of a nonequilibrium theoretical framework to allow for correct interpretation of the data. Furthermore, we might be able to make contact with the study of black hole formation and evaporation (see, for example [1]) by using the AdS/CFT correspondence [2]. This widely studied correspondence postulates an exact equivalence between string theory on the $AdS_5 \times S^5$ background and $(3+1)$ -dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills theory (SYM) (for comprehensive reviews, see [3] and [4]). It is the best understood example of a gauge/gravity theory duality, i.e. of holography, a groundbreaking hypothesis which says that any gravitational theory should have a description in terms of a QFT with no gravity in one less dimension. It is precisely this $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM which we wish to study further in a nonequilibrium setting.

The problem of studying nonequilibrium phenomena is two-fold, because we not only need to take into account quantum fluctuations, but we also need to deal with a very large number of degrees of freedom. Classical statistical field theory simply is not good enough, and standard perturbative approaches based on small deviations from equilibrium are not applicable: secular, time-dependent terms may appear which invalidate the perturbative expansion. For example, in [5] it was argued that for $SU(N)$ Yang-Mills on a sphere, the high temperature phase of the theory is intrinsically non-perturbative. In recent years, so-called n PI effective action techniques have been developed [6, 7, 8, 9, 10], allowing us to use nonperturbative approximations to get a handle on nonequilibrium dynamics, in the hope of ensuring non-secular and universal behaviour (meaning that the initial conditions do not affect the late-time behaviour). Of particular interest is the precise time evolution of quantum fields whose initial state is far from equilibrium. Relevant references relating to far-from-equilibrium quantum fields and thermalization include [11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20]. For a comprehensive review on progress in nonequilibrium QFT, see [21] and the references therein, and the book [22].

This paper is arranged as follows. In section 2 we present our results: we give the 2PI effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, and also write down the evolution equations of the 2-point correlators for the scalars, gluons, fermions and ghosts within the theory, in the nonequilibrium realm.

2 The n PI Effective Action Approach

In order to study nonequilibrium quantum field theory, one first needs to specify an initial state at some time t_0 , which is usually done by specifying a density matrix $\rho_D(t_0)$ which is not a thermal equilibrium density matrix. Equivalently one can specify all initial n -point correlation functions, although in practice one often supplies only the lowest correlation functions at t_0 . The time evolution of this initial state (i.e. these initial correlation functions) is then encoded in the functional path integral with classical action S . For example, in the case of a real scalar field φ , the nonequilibrium generating functional for correlation functions is

$$Z[J_1, J_2, \dots; \rho_D] = \text{Tr} \left\{ \rho_D(0) T_{\mathcal{C}} e^{i \left(\int_{\mathcal{C}} J_1(x) \Phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{C}} J_2(x, y) \Phi(x) \Phi(y) + \dots \right)} \right\}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $\Phi(x)$ denote Heisenberg field operators. $T_{\mathcal{C}}$ denotes time-ordering along the time path \mathcal{C} and in what follows, $\int_x \equiv \int_{\mathcal{C}} dx^0 \int d^d x$. It turns out that the extension to the nonequilibrium realm is done precisely via the introduction of this finite, closed real-time contour \mathcal{C} , known as the Schwinger-Keldysh contour, given in Figure 1. We call the top part

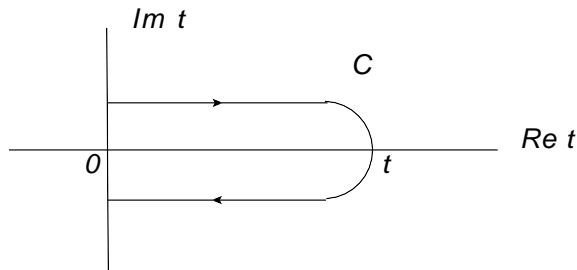


Figure 1: Schwinger-Keldysh contour.

of the contour, the forward piece, \mathcal{C}^+ , and the bottom backward piece \mathcal{C}^- . Time ordering along the contour is largely intuitive: we want any time on \mathcal{C}^- to be later than any time on \mathcal{C}^+ , so we use normal time ordering on the forward piece, and antitemporal time ordering along the backward piece. Time integration along the contour is given by

$$\int_{\mathcal{C}} dx^0 = \int_{0, \mathcal{C}^+}^t dx^0 + \int_t^{0, \mathcal{C}^-} dx^0 = \int_{0, \mathcal{C}^+}^t dx^0 - \int_{0, \mathcal{C}^-}^t dx^0. \quad (2.2)$$

In (2.1) we have included n source terms $J_1(x)$, $J_2(x, y)$, \dots . Now, the standard prescription for writing down a 1PI (one particle irreducible) effective action involves introducing only the J_1 source term when setting up the generating functional, but in order to extend this to the so-called “ n PI” (n particle irreducible) effective action, we need to introduce n source terms. In practice, an equivalence hierarchy exists between n PI effective

actions, and means that one can avoid having to calculate the effective action for arbitrarily large n . For a q -loop approximation, this hierarchy states that all n PI descriptions with $n \leq q$ are equivalent, so only the q PI effective action is required. In our analysis of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM we will be interested in a two-loop approximation, which amounts to calculating the 2PI effective action of the theory. In (2.1) this would amount to including only the sources $J_1(x)$ and $J_2(x, y)$, so that we can rewrite the two-source generating functional as

$$Z[J_1, J_2; \rho_D] = \int d\varphi^+ d\varphi^- \langle \varphi^+ | \rho_D(0) | \varphi^- \rangle \int_{\varphi^+}^{\varphi^-} \mathcal{D}' \varphi e^{i \left(S[\varphi] + \int_x J_1(x) \varphi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{xy} J_2(x, y) \varphi(x) \varphi(y) \right)}, \quad (2.3)$$

where φ^\pm are eigenstates of the Heisenberg field operators at initial time, namely $\Phi(t = 0, \vec{x}) | \varphi^\pm \rangle = \varphi^\pm(\vec{x}) | \varphi^\pm \rangle$. It follows from (2.3) that the structure of the nonequilibrium partition function is very similar to the zero temperature and thermal case, apart from the additional piece coming from the initial conditions, and the time ordering along \mathcal{C} replacing the original time ordering along only \mathcal{C}^+ . In principle, barring the initial conditions, we should be able to do our calculations at zero temperature, and easily transform our results to fit the nonequilibrium case by introducing the Schwinger-Keldysh contour. Indeed, notice that in (2.3) the second integral is basically just the vacuum generating functional for connected Green's functions for a scalar field theory with classical action $S[\varphi]$, in the presence of two source terms,

$$Z[J_1, J_2] = e^{iW[J_1, J_2]} = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left(i \left[S[\varphi] + \int_x J_1(x) \varphi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{xy} J_2(x, y) \varphi(x) \varphi(y) \right] \right). \quad (2.4)$$

Now, in order to obtain the equations of motion of the correlation functions of such a simple scalar field theory, thereby fully describing it, one first extracts the effective action Γ from S by performing suitable Legendre transforms. In addition to the Legendre transform of the generating functional necessary to obtain the 1PI effective action, we simultaneously perform a second Legendre transform to get the required 2PI effective action, namely

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma[\phi, G] &= W[J_1, J_2] - \int_x \frac{\delta W[J_1, J_2]}{\delta J_1(x)} J_1(x) - \int_{xy} \frac{\delta W[J_1, J_2]}{\delta J_2(x, y)} J_2(x, y) \\ &= W[J_1, J_2] - \int_x \phi(x) J_1(x) - \frac{1}{2} \int_{xy} J_2(x, y) \phi(x) \phi(y) - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} G J_2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

In (2.5), $\phi(x)$ is the macroscopic field (i.e. the field expectation value of φ) and $G(x, y)$ is the connected two-point function. An n PI effective action would require n simultaneous Legendre transforms of this type. Finally, first order functional derivatives of this effective

action with respect to the appropriate correlation functions (in the absence of sources) then provide the corresponding equations of motion via the so-called “stationarity conditions”,

$$\frac{\delta\Gamma[\phi, G]}{\delta\phi} = 0, \quad \frac{\delta\Gamma[\phi, G]}{\delta G} = 0. \quad (2.6)$$

For more on the 2PI effective action of scalar and fermion fields, see [6, 7, 8, 21] and the references therein.

2.1 2PI Effective Action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills (SYM) has an $SU(N)$ colour gauge symmetry and corresponding gauge field A_μ , and also contains four spinors λ_i , where $i = 1, \dots, 4$ transforming under the global $SU(4)$ symmetry, and six scalars M^m , where $m = 1, \dots, 6$, transforming under $SO(6)$. In order to quantize this theory properly we need to gauge-fix, which we do using the Faddeev-Popov procedure. Together with the gauge-fixing term $-\frac{1}{2\xi}Tr(\partial_\mu A^\mu)^2$ and ghost term $Tr(-\bar{\eta}\partial^\mu(\nabla_\mu\eta))$ (with ghost fields labelled by η and anti ghosts by $\bar{\eta}$), the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM action is given by

$$S_{SYM} = S_{SYM}^0 + S_{SYM}^{int}, \quad (2.7)$$

where

$$S_{SYM}^0 = \int_x Tr \left(\frac{1}{2} A_\mu \partial^2 A^\mu + \frac{1}{2} M_m \partial^2 M^m + i \bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}i} \bar{\sigma}_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^\mu \partial_\mu \lambda_i^\beta - \bar{\eta} \partial^2 \eta \right), \quad (2.8)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_{SYM}^{int} = & \int_x Tr \left(-ig (\partial_\mu A_\nu A^\mu A^\nu - \partial_\mu A_\nu A^\nu A^\mu) + \frac{1}{2} g^2 (A_\mu A_\nu A^\mu A^\nu - A_\mu A_\nu A^\nu A^\mu) \right. \\ & - ig (\partial_\mu M_m A^\mu M^m - \partial_\mu M_m M^m A^\mu) + g^2 (A_\mu M_m A^\mu M^m - M_m A_\mu A^\mu M^m) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} g^2 (M_m M_n M^m M^n - M_m M_n M^n M^m) - g \left(\lambda_i^\alpha \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\mu A_\mu \bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}i} - \lambda_i^\alpha \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\mu \bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}i} A_\mu \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} ig (\lambda_i^\alpha \lambda_{\alpha j} (\tilde{\sigma}_m^{-1})^{ij} M_m - \lambda_i^\alpha (\tilde{\sigma}_m^{-1})^{ij} M_m \lambda_{\alpha j} - \bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i \bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}j} (\tilde{\sigma}_m)_{ij} M_m + \bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i (\tilde{\sigma}_m)_{ij} M_m \bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}j}) \\ & \left. + ig (\partial^\mu \bar{\eta} A_\mu \eta - \partial^\mu \bar{\eta} \eta A_\mu) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

In the above, ∇_μ is the covariant derivative, with $\nabla_\mu \eta = \partial_\mu \eta + ig[A_\mu, \eta]$, and we work in the Feynman 'tHooft gauge where $\xi = 1$. The free gluon, scalar, fermion and ghost propagators (denoted D_0, S_0, Δ_0 , and G_0 respectively) are given by

$$D_0(x, y) = \frac{i}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{(x - y)^2} = S_0(x, y) = -G_0(x, y), \quad \Delta_{0, a\dot{\beta}}(x - y) = i \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\mu \partial_\mu^x D_0(x, y). \quad (2.10)$$

The 2PI effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}, S, D, \Delta, G] &= S_{SYM}[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}] \\
&+ \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \ln S^{-1} + \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} S_0^{-1} S + \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \ln D^{-1} + \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} D_0^{-1} D \\
&- i \text{Tr} \ln \Delta^{-1} - i \text{Tr} \Delta_0^{-1} \Delta - i \text{Tr} \ln G^{-1} - i \text{Tr} G_0^{-1} G \\
&+ \Gamma_2[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}, S, D, \Delta, G],
\end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

where the S , D , Δ and G are *full* scalar, gluon, fermion and ghost propagators respectively, and \tilde{M} , \tilde{A} , $\tilde{\lambda}$, $\tilde{\eta}$ are the respective macroscopic fields. The first nine terms above represent the 2PI effective action to one loop order, while $\Gamma_2[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}, S, D, \Delta, G]$ is the higher loop contribution. $\Gamma_2[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}, S, D, \Delta, G]$ is obtained by shifting each of the fields in S_{SYM} by the respective macroscopic field (the field expectation value), and using the vertices obtained from this shifted action to build the higher loop 2PI diagrams.

At two-loop order, the fourteen diagrams given in Figure 2 contribute to Γ_2 in (2.11). The wavy lines correspond to gluons, straight lines to scalars, arrowed lines to fermions and

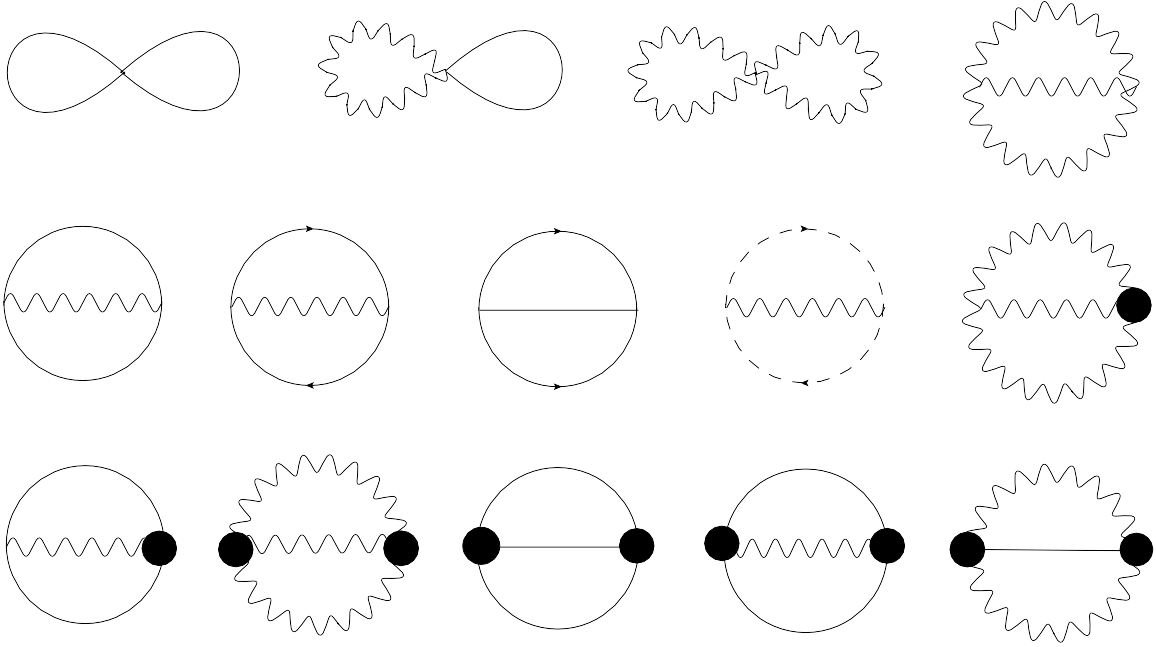


Figure 2: 2PI 2-loop diagrams contributing to $\Gamma_2[\tilde{M}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\eta}, S, D, \Delta, G]$. Starting at the top row and going from left to right, we label them as S^2 , DS , D^2 , D^3 , S^2D , $\Delta\bar{\Delta}D$, Δ^2S , and $G\bar{G}D$.

dashed arrowed lines to ghosts. Vertices with black dots correspond to cubic vertices with the shift fields. We will keep only the diagrams at leading order in g (i.e. g^2). Then all diagrams which depend on the macroscopic fields do not contribute, since they are all either $\mathcal{O}(g^3)$ or $\mathcal{O}(g^4)$. Hence, we can exclude all diagrams in Figure 2 which contain black dots.

We will label the eight leading order diagrams according to the propagators they contain. Thus, starting from the top row in Figure 2 and going from left to right, we have S^2 , DS , D^2 , D^3 , S^2D , $\Delta\bar{\Delta}D$, Δ^2S , and $G\bar{G}D$. Thus,

$$\Gamma_2[S, D, \Delta, G]_{SYM} = \Gamma_{S^2} + \Gamma_{DS} + \Gamma_{D^2} + \Gamma_{D^3} + \Gamma_{S^2D} + \Gamma_{\Delta\bar{\Delta}D} + \Gamma_{\Delta^2S} + \Gamma_{G\bar{G}D},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{S^2} &= -15g^2(N^3 - N) \int_x S^2(x, x), \\ \Gamma_{DS} &= -6g^2(N^3 - N) \int_x D_\mu^\mu(x, x) S(x, x), \\ \Gamma_{D^2} &= \frac{1}{2}g^2(N^3 - N) \int_x (D_\mu^\nu(x, x) D_\nu^\mu(x, x) - D_\mu^\mu(x, x) D_\nu^\nu(x, x)), \\ \Gamma_{D^3} &= -ig^2(N^3 - N) \int_{xy} (\partial_\mu^x \partial_\rho^y D_{\nu\kappa}(x, y) (D^{\mu\kappa}(x, y) D^{\nu\rho}(x, y) - D^{\mu\rho}(x, y) D^{\nu\kappa}(x, y)) \\ &\quad + \partial_\mu^x D_\nu^\rho(x, y) (\partial_\rho^y D_\kappa^\mu(x, y) D^{\nu\kappa}(x, y) - \partial_\rho^y D_\kappa^\nu(x, y) D^{\mu\kappa}(x, y)) \\ &\quad + \partial_\mu^x D_\nu^\kappa(x, y) (\partial_\rho^y D_\kappa^\nu(x, y) D^{\mu\rho}(x, y) - \partial_\rho^y D_\kappa^\mu(x, y) D^{\nu\rho}(x, y))), \\ \Gamma_{S^2D} &= -6ig^2(N^3 - N) \int_{xy} D^{\mu\rho}(x, y) (\partial_\mu^x S(x, y) \partial_\rho^y S(x, y) - \partial_\mu^x \partial_\rho^y S(x, y) S(x, y)), \\ \Gamma_{\Delta\bar{\Delta}D} &= -4ig^2(N^3 - N) \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\mu \sigma_{\kappa\dot{\rho}}^\nu \int_{xy} \Delta^{\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, y) \Delta^{\kappa\dot{\beta}}(y, x) D_{\mu\nu}(x, y), \\ \Gamma_{\Delta^2S} &= -24ig^2(N^3 - N) \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}} \int_{xy} \Delta^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(x, y) \Delta^{\beta\dot{\beta}}(x, y) S(x, y), \\ \Gamma_{G\bar{G}D} &= ig^2(N^3 - N) \int_{xy} \partial_x^\mu G(y, x) \partial_y^\nu G(x, y) D_{\mu\nu}(x, y). \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

We can evaluate the 2PI effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM to $\mathcal{O}(g^2)$ by using the free propagators when evaluating each of the diagrams. Due to the conformal and supersymmetric nature of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, we expect the effective action to vanish, and it does. This is a first check that our effective action is indeed correct.

2.2 Evolution Equations of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Having determined which 2PI diagrams contribute to the 2PI effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, we can use the stationarity conditions to write down the equations of motion for each of the fields in our theory [15, 21]. This involves writing down the self energy $\Sigma(x, y)$ for each propagator in the usual way (by cutting that propagator line on each of the 2PI diagrams at our disposal). As mentioned in the beginning of section 2, barring the initial conditions, we should be able to do our calculations in the vacuum, and easily transform our results to fit the nonequilibrium case by introducing the Schwinger-Keldysh contour.

For scalars, the equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(s)}(x; S)\right) F^{(s)}(x, y) &= \int_0^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_\rho^{(s)}(x, z) F^{(s)}(z, y) \\
&\quad - \int_0^{y^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_F^{(s)}(x, z) \rho^{(s)}(z, y), \\
\left(\partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(s)}(x; S)\right) \rho^{(s)}(x, y) &= \int_{y^0}^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_\rho^{(s)}(x, z) \rho^{(s)}(z, y). \tag{2.13}
\end{aligned}$$

The superscript (s) refers to scalars (and similarly, throughout this paper, the superscripts (gl) =gluon, (f) =fermion and (gh) =ghost).

The integro-differential evolution equations in (2.13) are for the scalar statistical propagator $F^{(s)}(x, y)$ and the scalar spectral function $\rho^{(s)}(x, y)$, which are obtained via a splitting of the scalar two-point function [14, 15]

$$S_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) = F^{(s)}(x, y) - \frac{i}{2} \rho^{(s)}(x, y) \text{sign}_{\mathcal{C}}(x^0 - y^0). \tag{2.14}$$

The preference in using $F(x, y)$ and $\rho(x, y)$ is that they are both real, which makes their evolution equations intrinsically more manageable, and more importantly they have handy physical interpretations. The spectral function involves the spectrum of the theory while the statistical propagator deals with occupation numbers.

The quantities $\Sigma_F^{(s)}(x, y)$ and $\Sigma_\rho^{(s)}(x, y)$ arise from a similar splitting of the scalar self-energy, namely

$$\Sigma_{\mathcal{C}}^{(s)}(x, y) = \delta_{\mathcal{C}}(x, y) \Sigma^{(0)(s)}(x) + \Sigma_F^{(s)}(x, y) - \frac{i}{2} \Sigma_\rho^{(s)}(x, y) \text{sign}_{\mathcal{C}}(x^0 - y^0). \tag{2.15}$$

The local term $\Sigma^{(0)(s)}(x)$ is part of a generalized “mass” term. (When considering the evolution equations for the other fields in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, we perform a similar splitting of the two-point functions and corresponding self-energies, and label them by the superscripts (gl) , (f) and (gh)).

Of course, the scalar evolution equations in (2.13) are quite general. In order for them to apply specifically to $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, we need to write down the quantities $\Sigma_F^{(s)}$ and $\Sigma_\rho^{(s)}$ in the context of this theory. These quantities are related to the corrections to the scalar propagator, which we obtain by cutting a scalar line in the two-loop diagrams of Figure 2. The diagrams in Figure 3 contribute. Being careful to take the contour \mathcal{C} into account, suppressing adjoint indices and working to $\mathcal{O}(g^2 N)$, we obtain



Figure 3: Corrections to the scalar propagator.

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_F^{(s)}(x, z) = & -g^2 N \left[8\partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x F^{(s)}(x, z) F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - 2\partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \right. \\
& + 4\partial_\mu^x F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \\
& + 4\partial_\nu^z F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - \partial_\nu^z \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \\
& + 2F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \\
& - \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}} \left(4F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(x, z) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(x, z) - \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(x, z) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(x, z) \right. \\
& \left. \left. + 4F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(z, x) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(z, x) - \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(z, x) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(z, x) \right) \right], \tag{2.16}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_\rho^{(s)}(x, z) = & -g^2 N \left[8 \left(\partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x F^{(s)}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - 2\partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(s)}(x, z) F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \right) \right. \\
& + 4 \left(\partial_\mu^x F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \right) \\
& + \left(4\partial_\nu^z F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) - \partial_\nu^z \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 2F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) + 2\rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_\nu^z \partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\nu}(x, z) \\
& - 4\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}} \left(F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(x, z) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(x, z) + \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(x, z) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(x, z) \right. \\
& \left. - F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(z, x) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(z, x) - \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\alpha}}(z, x) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\beta}}(z, x) \right) \left. \right]. \tag{2.17}
\end{aligned}$$

With analogous definitions for the gluons, fermions and ghosts, we can also write down the evolution equations for the statistical propagators and spectral functions of these fields. For gluons, the equations are

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(g_\nu^\kappa \partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(gl)\kappa}_\nu(x; D) \right) F^{(gl)\nu\gamma}(x, y) &= \int_0^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho, \nu}^{(gl)\kappa}(x, z) F^{(gl)\nu\gamma}(z, y) \\
&- \int_0^{y^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{F, \nu}^{(gl)\kappa}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\nu\gamma}(z, y), \\
\left(g_\nu^\kappa \partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(gl)\kappa}_\nu(x; D) \right) \rho^{(gl)\nu\gamma}(x, y) &= \int_{y^0}^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho, \nu}^{(gl)\kappa}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\nu\gamma}(z, y). \tag{2.18}
\end{aligned}$$

The fermion equations are

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(i\bar{\sigma}_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}^x + \Sigma_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^{(0)(f)}(x; \triangle)\right) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\gamma}}(x, y) &= \int_0^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho, \dot{\alpha}\beta}^{(f)}(x, z) F^{(f)\beta\dot{\gamma}}(z, y) \\
&\quad - \int_0^{y^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{F, \dot{\alpha}\beta}^{(f)}(x, z) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\gamma}}(z, y), \\
\left(i\bar{\sigma}_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}^x + \Sigma_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^{(0)(f)}(x; \triangle)\right) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\gamma}}(x, y) &= \int_{y^0}^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho, \dot{\alpha}\beta}^{(f)}(x, z) \rho^{(f)\beta\dot{\gamma}}(z, y).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

Finally, the ghost equations are

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(gh)}(x; G)\right) F^{(gh)}(x, y) &= \int_0^{y^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_F^{(gh)}(x, z) \rho^{(gh)}(z, y) \\
&\quad - \int_0^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho}^{(gh)}(x, z) F^{(gh)}(z, y), \\
\left(\partial_x^2 - \Sigma^{(0)(gh)}(x; G)\right) \rho^{(gh)}(x, y) &= - \int_{y^0}^{x^0} dz^0 \int d^3z \Sigma_{\rho}^{(gh)}(x, z) \rho^{(gh)}(z, y).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.20}$$

The corresponding $\Sigma_F^{(gl)/(f)/(gh)}$ and $\Sigma_{\rho}^{(gl)/(f)/(gh)}$ for each of the equations above are given in the Appendix.

3 Discussion and conclusions

In this paper we used the n PI effective action approach to write down the 2PI effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM. We then wrote down the evolution equations for the two-point correlators of scalars, gluons, fermions and ghosts in the theory. A particularly pleasing property of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is that it is a finite theory, so no renormalization is required. n PI effective actions enable us to set up a very efficient nonperturbative approximation scheme for nonequilibrium QFT, in the hope that we may bypass the usual problems of secularity and non-universality experienced by the standard perturbative approaches. It would be interesting to see the dependence of our results on gauge fixing, since the 2PI effective action in general has a gauge dependence [9].

An important step in understanding the nonequilibrium dynamics of quantum fields is to understand how systems which are initially far from equilibrium approach thermal equilibrium at late times. We want to understand thermalization in QFTs which have a holographic dual, in particular $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM. Thus, a first step in extending our result would be to consider various initial conditions and solve the equations of motion, thereby

allowing one to explore thermalization in this theory. Arguably the simplest possibility is to consider gaussian initial conditions and solve the equations of motion numerically (any such solution would have to be numerical, due to the extremely nonlinear and coupled nature of the evolution equations). One could then move on to more complicated initial conditions, since physical initial conditions may not be gaussian. In particular, since $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM is a supersymmetric conformal field theory, supersymmetric initial conditions may simplify things. Exploring thermalization in this theory and comparing it to that in QCD would potentially give insights as to why the RHIC data seems to be well-described by the strongly coupled $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory. It would also be interesting to investigate the implications for black hole formation and evaporation, since, through holography, the process of thermalization is expected to be mapped to horizon formation on the gravitational side. In the context of holography, a similar formulation was developed in [23, 24, 25], but instead for gauge invariant operators without the 2PI technique.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank K. Skenderis and M. Taylor for initially suggesting this problem and for many useful discussions. We would also like to thank J. Smit for discussions. This work is part of a research program which is financially supported by the ‘Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek’ (NWO). JS and MS acknowledge support via the NWO Vici grant of K. Skenderis.

A Appendix

The corrections to the gluon propagator in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM are given by the six diagrams in Figure 4. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) = & g^2 N \left[\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\rho \sigma_{\kappa\dot{\rho}}^\xi \left(8F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z)F^{(f)\kappa\dot{\beta}}(z, x) + 2\rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z)\rho^{(f)\kappa\dot{\beta}}(z, x) \right) \right. \\
& + 12\partial_x^\rho F^{(s)}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi F^{(s)}(x, z) - 3\partial_x^\rho \rho^{(s)}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \\
& - 12\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\xi F^{(s)}(x, z)F^{(s)}(x, z) + 3\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\xi \rho^{(s)}(x, z)\rho^{(s)}(x, z) \\
& - 2\partial_z^\xi F^{(gh)}(x, z)\partial_x^\rho F^{(gh)}(z, x) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_z^\xi \rho^{(gh)}(x, z)\partial_x^\rho \rho^{(gh)}(z, x) \\
& - 8 \left(2\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z)F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(2\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z)F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(2\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z)F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 2 \left(2\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z)F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(2\partial_x^\mu \partial_z^\xi F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z)F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\mu \partial_z^\xi \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z)\rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(2\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\beta F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z)F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\beta \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z)\rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 2 \left(2\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\beta F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z)F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\beta \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 2 \left(2\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\xi F_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)F^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \partial_z^\xi \rho_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 2 \left(2\partial_x^\mu \partial_z^\xi F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\mu \partial_z^\xi \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)\rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 8 \left(2\partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z)\partial_\rho^z F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z)\partial_\rho^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(2\partial_x^\rho F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z)\partial_z^\beta F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z)\partial_z^\beta \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(2\partial_x^\mu F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\mu \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 2 \left(2\partial_x^\rho F^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi F_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \rho^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi \rho_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(2\partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 2 \left(2\partial_x^\rho F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z)\partial_z^\beta F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\rho \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z)\partial_z^\beta \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(2\partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 2 \left(2\partial_x^\mu F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_x^\mu \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z)\partial_z^\xi \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& \left. + 2 \left(2\partial_\mu^x F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z)\partial_\beta^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \right) \right], \tag{A.1}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_{\rho}^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) = & g^2 N \left[\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\rho} \sigma_{\kappa\dot{\rho}}^{\xi} \left(-8 F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) \rho^{(f)\kappa\dot{\beta}}(z, x) + 8 \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) F^{(f)\kappa\dot{\beta}}(z, x) \right) \right. \\
& + 12 \partial_x^{\rho} F^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} \rho^{(s)}(x, z) + 12 \partial_x^{\rho} \rho^{(s)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} F^{(s)}(x, z) \\
& - 12 \partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\xi} F^{(s)}(x, z) \rho^{(s)}(x, z) - 12 \partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\xi} \rho^{(s)}(x, z) F^{(s)}(x, z) \\
& + 2 \partial_z^{\xi} F^{(gh)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\rho} \rho^{(gh)}(z, x) - 2 \partial_z^{\xi} \rho^{(gh)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\rho} F^{(gh)}(z, x) \\
& - 16 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 8 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 8 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 8 \left(\partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\xi} F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\xi} \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 8 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\beta} F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\beta} \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\beta} F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\beta} \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\xi} F_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \partial_z^{\xi} \rho_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) F^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 4 \left(\partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\xi} F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\xi} \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 16 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \partial_{\rho}^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \partial_{\rho}^z F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 8 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\beta} \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\beta} F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 8 \left(\partial_x^{\mu} F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\mu} \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} F^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} \rho_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \rho^{(gl)\nu\kappa}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} F_{\nu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 8 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(\partial_x^{\rho} F^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \partial_z^{\beta} \rho_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\rho} \rho^{(gl)\nu\xi}(x, z) \partial_z^{\beta} F_{\nu\beta}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \\
& - 8 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x F^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\beta}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\rho\xi}(x, z) \right) \\
& + 4 \left(\partial_x^{\mu} F_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} \rho^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\mu} \rho_{\mu\kappa}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\xi} F^{(gl)\rho\kappa}(x, z) \right) \\
& \left. + 4 \left(\partial_{\mu}^x F^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z \rho^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) + \partial_{\mu}^x \rho^{(gl)\mu\xi}(x, z) \partial_{\beta}^z F^{(gl)\rho\beta}(x, z) \right) \right].
\end{aligned}
\tag{A.2}$$

Fermion propagator corrections are shown in Figure 5 and yield

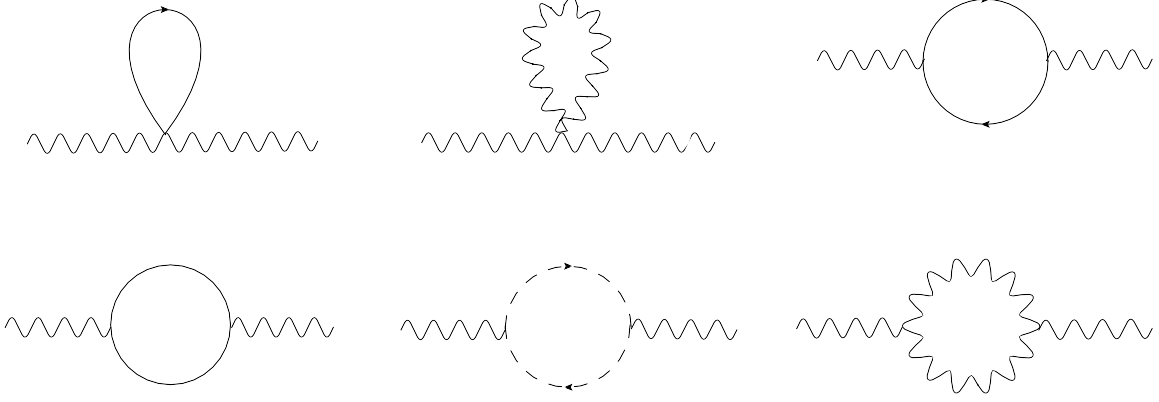


Figure 4: Corrections to gluon propagator.

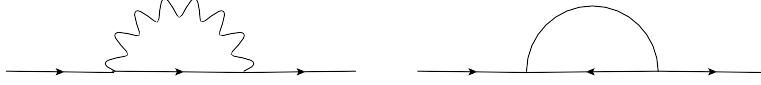


Figure 5: Corrections to fermion propagator.

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{F, \dot{\lambda}\tau}^{(f)}(x, z) = & -2g^2 N \left[\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\lambda}}^{\mu} \sigma_{\tau\dot{\rho}}^{\nu} \left(F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{4} \rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \right. \\ & \left. - 6 \left(F_{\tau\dot{\lambda}}^{(f)}(z, x) F(x, z) + \frac{1}{4} \rho_{\tau\dot{\lambda}}^{(f)}(z, x) \rho(x, z) \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{\rho, \dot{\lambda}\tau}^{(f)}(x, z) = & -2g^2 N \left[\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\lambda}}^{\mu} \sigma_{\tau\dot{\rho}}^{\nu} \left(\rho^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) + F^{(f)\alpha\dot{\rho}}(x, z) \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \right) \right. \\ & \left. + 6 \left(\rho_{\tau\dot{\lambda}}^{(f)}(z, x) F(x, z) - F_{\tau\dot{\lambda}}^{(f)}(z, x) \rho(x, z) \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Finally, the single ghost propagator correction is given in Figure 6, with



Figure 6: Correction to ghost propagator.

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_F^{(gh)}(x, z) = & -g^2 N \left[2\partial_x^{\mu} F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\nu} F^{(gh)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2} \partial_x^{\mu} \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\nu} \rho^{(gh)}(x, z) \right. \\ & \left. + 2F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\nu} F^{(gh)}(x, z) - \frac{1}{2} \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\nu} \rho^{(gh)}(x, z) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_{\rho}^{(gh)}(x, z) = & -2g^2 N \left[\partial_x^{\mu} F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_z^{\nu} \rho^{(gh)}(x, z) + \partial_x^{\mu} \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)} \partial_z^{\nu} F^{(gh)}(x, z) \right. \\ & \left. + F_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\nu} \rho^{(gh)}(x, z) + \rho_{\mu\nu}^{(gl)}(x, z) \partial_x^{\mu} \partial_z^{\nu} F^{(gh)}(x, z) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

References

- [1] P. M. Chesler, L. G. Yaffe, *Horizon formation and far-from-equilibrium isotropization in supersymmetric Yang-Mills plasma*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **102** (2009) 211601, [arXiv:0812.2053 \[hep-th\]](#).
- [2] J. M. Maldacena, *The large N limit of superconformal field theories and supergravity*, *Adv. Theor. Math. Phys.* **2** (1998) 231-252, [[hep-th/9711200](#)].
- [3] O. Aharony, S. S. Gubser, J. M. Maldacena, H. Ooguri, and Y. Oz, *Large N field theories, string theory and gravity*, *Phys. Rept.* **323** (2000) 183-386, [[hep-th/9905111](#)].
- [4] E. DHoker and D. Z. Freedman, *Supersymmetric gauge theories and the AdS/CFT correspondence*, [[hep-th/0201253](#)].
- [5] G. Festuccia and H. Liu, *The arrow of time, black holes, and quantum mixing of large N Yang-Mills theories*, *JHEP* 0712:027, 2007, [[hep-th/0611098](#)].
- [6] J. M. Luttinger, J. C. Ward, *Ground-state energy of a many-fermion system II*, *Phys. Rev.* **118** (1960) 1417.
- [7] G. Baym, *Self-consistent approximations in many-body systems*, *Phys. Rev.* **127** (1962) 1391.
- [8] J. M. Cornwall, R. Jackiw and E. Tomboulis, *Effective Action For Composite Operators*, *Phys. Rev. D* **10** (1974) 2428.
- [9] A. Arrizabalaga and J. Smit, *Gauge-fixing dependence of Φ -derivable approximations*, *Phys. Rev. D* **66** (2002) 065014, [[hep-ph/0207044](#)].
- [10] J. Berges, *nPI effective action techniques for gauge theories*, *Phys. Rev. D* **70** (2004) 105010, [[hep-ph/0401172](#)].
- [11] E. Calzetta and B. L. Hu, *Nonequilibrium quantum fields: closed-time-path effective action, Wigner function, and Boltzmann equation*, *Phys. Rev. D* **37** (1988) 2878.
- [12] Y. B. Ivanov, J. Knoll, and D. N. Voskresensky, *Self-consistent approximations to non-equilibrium many-body theory*, *Nucl. Phys. A* **657** (1999) 413-445, [[hep-ph/9807351](#)].
- [13] J. Berges and J. Cox, *Thermalization of quantum fields from time-reversal invariant evolution equations*, *Phys. Lett. B* **517** (2001) 369-374, [[hep-ph/0006160](#)].

- [14] G. Aarts and J. Berges, *Nonequilibrium time evolution of the spectral function in quantum field theory*, *Phys. Rev. D* **64** (2001) 105010.
- [15] J. Berges, *Controlled nonperturbative dynamics of quantum fields out of equilibrium*, *Nucl. Phys. A* **699** (2002) 847.
- [16] G. Aarts, D. Ahrensmeier, R. Baier, J. Berges and J. Serreau, *Far-from-equilibrium dynamics with broken symmetries from the 2PI-1/N expansion*, *Phys. Rev. D* **66** (2002) 045008, [[hep-ph/0201308](#)].
- [17] J. Berges, Sz. Borsnyi and J. Serreau, *Thermalization of fermionic quantum fields*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **660** (2003) 52, [[hep-ph/0212404](#)].
- [18] S. Juchem, W. Cassing and C. Greiner, *Quantum dynamics and thermalization for out-of-equilibrium ϕ^4 -theory*, *Phys. Rev. D* **69** (2004) 025006.
- [19] A. Arrizabalaga, J. Smit and A. Tranberg, *Tachyonic preheating using 2PI-1/N dynamics and the classical approximation*, *JHEP* 0410:017, 2004, [[hep-ph/0409177](#)].
- [20] A. Arrizabalaga, J. Smit and A. Tranberg, *Equilibration in ϕ^4 theory in 3+1 dimensions*, *Phys. Rev. D* **72** (2005) 025014, [[hep-ph/0503287](#)].
- [21] J. Berges, *Introduction to nonequilibrium quantum field theory*, *AIP Conf. Proc.* **739** (2005) 3-62, [[hep-ph/0409233](#)].
- [22] E. Calzetta and B. Hu, *Nonequilibrium quantum field theory*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- [23] K. Skenderis and B. C. van Rees, *Real-time gauge/gravity duality*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **101** (2008) 081601, [arXiv:0805.0150](#) [[hep-th](#)].
- [24] K. Skenderis and B. C. van Rees, *Real-time gauge/gravity duality: prescription, renormalization and examples*, , [arXiv:0812.2909](#) [[hep-th](#)].
- [25] B. C. van Rees, *Real-time gauge/gravity duality and ingoing boundary conditions*, *Nucl. Phys. Proc. Suppl.* (2009)192-193:193-196, [arXiv:0902.4010](#) [[hep-th](#)].